16. **Police.**—The strength of the Force stood at 1,750 at the end of 1089. The number of policemen prosecuted rose from 66 to 93, but the percentage of conviction fell from 12 to 6. The Government have insisted on the Criminal Courts exercising more freely the discretion of awarding compensation to accused persons, so as to place an effectual check on the vexatious prosecution of policemen. 9 cases of false coining were reported, against 13 in 1088, of which 8 were disposed of and one was pending trial at the close of the year. Of the 8 cases disposed of, 5 ended in conviction and 3 in acquittal.

17. **Military.**—A reorganisation of the Second Battalion was effected during the year, and the Pension Rules were revised in view to the men of this Battalion being placed on a footing of equality with those of the First Battalion.

18. **Central Prison.**—There was a further increase in the number of prisoners, their average daily strength rising from 468 to 509. The number of re-convicted prisoners, however, fell from 192 to 184, and the percentage of sick to strength from four to a little over one. There was a marked decline in Jail dysentery, owing to the preventive measures adopted on the advice of the Darbar Physician. The total earnings of the Central Prison rose from Rs. 67,451 to Rs. 72,668, the receipts of the year under manufacture and garden produce being greater than in 1088.

19. **Criminal Justice.**—The number of Criminal Courts rose from 67 to 70, the increase being due to the establishment of a temporary additional First Class Magistrate's Court at Kottayam and the Stationary Magistrates' Courts at Tiruvalla and Shertallay. The Magisterial powers of the Devicolam Tahsildar were withdrawn and a new Munsiff-Magistrate's Court was established at Devicolam. The number of offences reported rose from 18,811 to 19,618, and the percentage of convictions from 31 to 32. The number of juveniles tried and convicted fell from 133 and 49 to 73 and 18, respectively. Nine of the juvenile convicts were sent to the Reformatory. 17 out of 246 public servants prosecuted were convicted. The low percentage of conviction in the prosecutions instituted by heads of departments, *viz.*, 23, accentuates the need for the exercise of greater discrimination in launching prosecutions.

20. **Civil Justice.**—His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to appoint Mr. K. Raman Menon, B. A., B. L., B. C. L., Barrister-at-Law, as the Chief Justice, and Mr. H. S. Chatfield, B. A., Barrister-at-Law, as the European Puisne Judge of the High Court. The temporary Third Bench of the High Court, which was originally sanctioned for six months, was continued for a further period of six months, on the expiry of which it was abolished. The number of *fresh* original suits fell from 65,474 to 64,289, while that of appeals rose from 3,784 to 4,079, the result being a fall in the number of institutions from 69,258 to 68,368. This decline was, however, nominal, being merely in small causes. On the whole, the arrears of original suits rose from 17,618 to 19,408 in the Munsiffs' Courts and from 637 to 842 in the District Courts. The number of suits of between one and two years' pendency and that of more than two years' pendency also showed an increase. The Munsiff's Court at Shencottah, which was abolished in 1087, has been recently revived, the Tahsildar-Magistrate of the taluk, who is a Graduate in Law, being appointed Munsiff in addition to his other duties.

21. **Registration.**—Four new Sub-Registry offices were opened during the year, the total number of offices in the State being thus raised to 72. The total number of documents presented for registration rose from 2,39,729 to 2,56,530, which is the highest on record. The gross receipts of the department rose from Rs. 5,10,789 to Rs. 5,58,311. The net receipts amounted to Rs. 3,61,552, the percentage of expenditure to the gr oss receipts being 35, against 37 in 1088.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

22. **Agriculture.**—The Agricultural Department continued to do useful work. Experimental cultivation, practical demonstration, the distribution of suitable manure,

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and last, but not least, persistence in the measures initiated to check the spread of the cocoanut-palm disease, formed the main work of the department, whose labours are, it is noted with satisfaction, more and more appreciated every year by the ryots. Two new Veterinary Hospitals were opened at Quilon and Peermade respectively. There is one hospital now in each Revenue Division. With a view to develop the fisheries of the State, the Government sanctioned the appointment of two Fishery Inspectors during the year. These officers have been deputed to undergo a course of training for a period of two years under Sir Frederick Nicholson, Honorary Director of the Fishery Department, Madras.

23. **Trade.**—The total value of the external trade was Rs. 7,05,09,702, of which 59·8 per cent represented the exports. The *per capita* value of trade rose from Rs. 18·3 to Rs. 20·5. The trade in the produce of the cocoanut tree, the duty on which alone formed 73·8 per cent of the collections from dutiable exports, showed an increase of Rs. 29,75,330. Every year a large quantity of paddy and rice has to be imported into the State. Their total value during 1089 was Rs. 1,28,99,773, against Rs. 1,08,78,461 in 1088. The war has, of course, considerably affected the exports of produce, and the depression has been seriously felt throughout the State. The rising demand for copra and cocoanut oil is somewhat hopeful, but it will take some time before commercial activity is fully restored.

24. **The Public Works Department.**—The total expenditure on public works rose from Rs. 36,24,875 to Rs. 38,40,779, of which a sum of Rs. 34,92,697 was spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 3,48,082 by the Maramat Department. The outlay on the Kodayar Project Works during the year amounted to Rs. 3,15,437. The capital outlay on the Project up to the close of the year has risen to Rs. 80,38,245. A correct Capital and Revenue Account in connection with the Project is being maintained with effect from the 1st Chingam 1089. The receipts are classified into (1) direct receipts, *viz.*, the realisations of the Public Works Department and (2) indirect receipts, *viz.*, the realisations of the Land Revenue Department, consisting of the cess on the lands commanded by the Project and the sale proceeds of obsolete tank-beds. I would state, in this connection, that His Highness' Government do not contemplate any immediate enhancement of the irrigation cess on the lands commanded by the Project.

25. **Railway.**—The acquisition of lands for the Quilon-Trivandrum Extension of the Tinnevelly-Quilon Railway has been almost completed and the work of construction of the line has begun. The Government hope to have the line open for traffic by the close of 1915. The estimated cost of the Extension is, as you know, Bh. Rs. 29,72,252, the whole of which the Government have resolved to spend from their own funds, instead of adding to the already heavy capital liability of 118 lakhs of rupees on account of the existing line from Shencottah to Quilon.

26. **Anchal.**—The work of the Anchal Department continued to progress satisfactorily, the increase in the number of offices, covers posted and articles delivered being steadily maintained. A new Anchal Regulation, IX of 1089, was passed. The revenue hundi system, tentatively introduced in 1085, was made permanent during the year. Motor cars have been engaged for the transmission of the mails between Nagercoil and Quilon, and between Kottayam and Mundakayam, with great convenience to the public.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY.

27. **Vaccination.**—The number of vaccinations performed rose from 1,78,411 to 2,40,313, of which as many as 1,92,324 were primary vaccinations The number of cases verified by the inspecting staff also rose from 56,483 to 81,113. 9,589 infants were successfully vaccinated, the percentage to registered births increasing from 9·5 to 13·4. Vaccination is now compulsory in seven towns.

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